

Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach

Proposal to Remove Wastes and Contaminated Soil

Site 7 - Station Landfill



Fact Sheet

November 2003

The Navy invites you to comment on a proposal to clean up landfill wastes and contaminated soil at Naval Weapons Station (NAVWPNSTA) Seal Beach. The proposed cleanup area is the Site 7 Station Landfill and parts of the dirt shoulder next to Perimeter Road.

The cleanup proposal, called a draft Action Memorandum/Remedial Action Plan (AM/RAP), includes the following actions:

- clear away debris from the surface of the landfill
- dig up and haul away buried wastes and soil that contains lead
- repair the earthen landfill cover.

Cleanup needed to protect wildlife

Both the landfill and the dirt shoulder are next to the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge. Part of the landfill is actually within the Refuge, next to Perimeter Pond. (See the map on Page 4.) The cleanup is needed to protect wildlife from possible exposure to hazardous wastes in the landfill and lead in the soil.

The proposed cleanup is part of the Navy's Installation Restoration Program (IRP). The purpose of the IRP is to search for and clean up hazardous waste from former activities at military installations.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD **November 20, 2003-December 22, 2003**

You are invited to review the cleanup proposal and send written comments during the comment period above. See Page 5 for information on how to find the documents and how to submit comments.

PUBLIC MEETING

7 p.m. Tuesday, **December 9**, 2003
Seal Beach City Council Chambers
211 8th Street
Seal Beach, California

This meeting is an opportunity for you to hear more about the cleanup proposal, to ask questions, and to give oral and written comments in person.

Effect of the cleanup actions on the environment and on wildlife

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) looked at whether the cleanup actions, such as the soil excavation, could harm wildlife, disturb habitat, raise dust, etc. They found that there would be no significant negative impact on the environment. Their environmental study and conclusion, called a draft Negative Declaration, is available for public review and comment along with draft AM/RAP.

Description of the site

NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach is in the city of Seal Beach, about 30 miles southeast of Los Angeles. Site 7 is about 33 acres in size and is in the southern part of the base. Site 7 is also next to Perimeter Pond and the Orange County Flood Control Channel.

The dirt shoulder next to Perimeter Road contains two areas, called Site 4 Areas of Potential Concern (AOPCs) 1A and 2A.

Landfill history

Site 7 landfill operations began in the mid-1950s and ended in the mid-1970s. All types of wastes generated at NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach may have been disposed of there.

The largest amounts of wastes included empty paint cans and cleaning solvent containers. Other waste included lumber, construction debris, asbestos insulation, paint, solvents, paint thinner, transformer oil filters, and petroleum products. In the 1960s the general public was allowed to enter the Naval Station and dispose of wastes at the landfill.

Two nearby spots contain lead in the soil

Site 4 AOPCs 1A and 2A have several “hot spots” where there are high levels of lead in the soil. The lead most likely came from the oil sprayed on the base’s perimeter roads to control dust. The spraying was done from the mid-1960s to 1973, about one to three times per year. Since then the perimeter roads have been sprayed with oil that does not contain lead or harmful chemicals.

Soil and groundwater samples locate areas of contamination

Between 1985 and 2001, the Navy conducted a series of studies at Site 7 and Site 4 AOPCs 1A and 2A. These studies included taking many soil and groundwater samples to find out if chemicals or other hazardous waste from the landfill had gotten into the environment.

Soil samples at Site 7 found low levels of chemicals that came from the wastes. These included volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs); polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs); pesticides; and cyanide.

Metals (copper, nickel, lead, and zinc) were generally found at normal levels for the region. That means that the metals occur naturally in the soil, and are not caused by hazardous waste.

These same chemicals were found in the shallow groundwater at Site 7, but were at low levels.

In 1995, soil samples were taken along the Perimeter Road. These samples showed the presence of lead above acceptable levels.

“Risk assessments” study the possible risk to human health and wildlife

The studies at Site 7 and the two Site 4 areas included detailed risk assessments to find out if the chemicals could potentially pose a risk to human health or wildlife.

The risk assessments found that there is no unacceptable risk to human health from the landfill or the nearby lead-contaminated soil. However, marine life could be at risk if the water in Perimeter Pond washes away parts of the landfill and uncovers hazardous waste. There is also a possible risk to wildlife from the lead in the soil.

The levels of chemicals in the groundwater are not high enough to pose a risk at this time. However, the Navy proposes to monitor the groundwater to make sure the levels do not increase.

Two previous cleanup proposals put out for public review and comment

The Navy's first cleanup proposal was for the Site 7 landfill only and did not include the two nearby soil areas *associated with Site 4*. This plan, titled an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA), was put out for a 30-day public comment period from late October to December 2001.

Later, the Navy revised the cleanup proposal to include the removal of the soil in the two nearby areas. A draft Addendum to the Site 7 EE/CA was put out for additional public review and comment in June 2003.

Reason for the current public review and comment period

Each of these two earlier proposals were small enough in scope that they did not require a public meeting. Now that the Navy has combined the Site 7 cleanup with the Site 4 AOPCs 1A and 2A soil removal, it has become large enough in scope to be defined by state law as a draft "Remedial Action Plan," which requires a public meeting.

Cleanup options

The Navy looked at four possible cleanup options. Alternative 1— "no action"—is included only as a point of comparison.

Alternative 1 – No action

Alternative 2 – Capping and long-term maintenance/ monitoring

Alternative 3 – Repair of existing soil cover, groundwater monitoring, and excavation of soil and debris

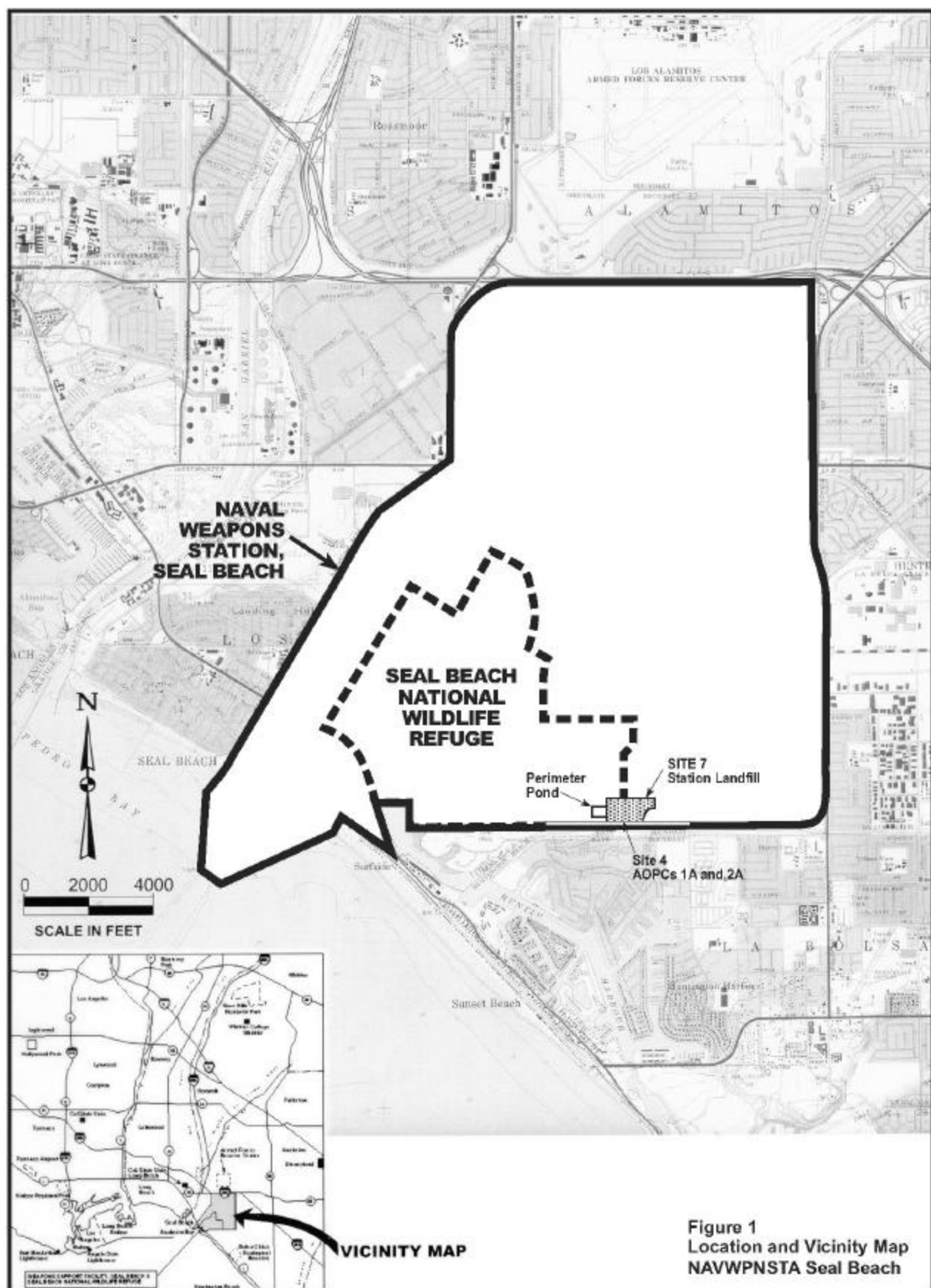
Alternative 4 - Excavation and offsite disposal

Recommended cleanup

The Navy recommends Alternative 3 because it protects the environment, is cost effective, and can be easily implemented. The proposal includes four main actions:

1. Repair the existing soil cover on the landfill. The cover would keep the landfill waste from being washed away or exposed to the environment.
2. Clear away debris on the surface of the landfill, and dig out (excavate) the landfill waste next to Perimeter Pond.
3. Dig out (excavate) the lead-contaminated soil at Site 4 AOPCs 1A and 2A.
4. Monitor the groundwater near the landfill to see if any chemicals are leaking out.

All wastes and contaminated soil would be taken offsite for proper disposal.



Where you can find the cleanup proposal and other project documents

The draft AM/RAP and draft Negative Declaration, as well as all other documents related to this site, are available at the following locations:

NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach website:

<http://www.sbeach.navy.mil/>

Seal Beach Public Library

Mary Wilson Branch
707 Electric Avenue
Seal Beach, CA
(562) 431- 3584

NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach

Building 110
For access to the documents in Building 110, please contact Ms. Pei-Fen Tamashiro at (562) 626-7897.

An Administrative Record, which contains all the documents for the Installation Restoration Program at NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach, is located at Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92132-5190. For access, please contact Diane Silva at (619) 532-3676.

How to submit comments

Written comments on the draft AM/RAP must be postmarked or emailed by December 22, 2003, and sent to Ms. Pei-Fen Tamashiro, NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach, 800 Seal Beach Blvd., Seal Beach, CA 90740; email: pei-fen.tamashiro@navy.mil. Comments on the draft Negative Declaration must be postmarked or emailed by December 22, 2003 and sent to Ms. Katherine Leibel, DTSC Project Manager, 5796 Corporate Avenue,

Cypress, CA 90630; email: kleibel@dtsc.ca.gov
You may also submit written and oral comments at the public meeting on December 9 (see box on Page 1).

Who to contact for more information

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How you can become more involved in the cleanup program

A "Restoration Advisory Board" (RAB) made up of community members meets regularly to discuss the progress of the Station cleanup. You are welcome to attend these meetings, which are open to the public. For more

information about the RAB, please contact
Ms. Joan “JP” Peoples, Community Co-Chair,
at (562) 592-5606.

WORKING

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